

H.A

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/772,238

Examiner

Arnel C. Lavarias

Applicant(s)

KOYAMA ET AL.

Art Unit

2872

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/6/04, 4/22/04, 2/6/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☒ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: JP 2001-237356.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 5/6/04, 4/22/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

THONG NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 2800

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Japan on 8/6/01. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the 2001-237356 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Drawings

2. The drawings were received on 2/6/04.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-22 are allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Masayasu Mori (703-413-3000) on 1/6/05.

The application has been amended as follows:

Abstract, line 2, at the beginning of the line, change 'Disclosed is a' to --A--.

Page 7, line 14, after film, delete 'either'.

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Page 17, line 14, after 'overstepping the', change 'sprit' to --spirit--.

Page 18, line 3, after '(B)', change 'sand' to --and--.

Page 21, Table 1, row 4, column 2, after '190°C,' change '2/16 kg' to --2.16 kg--.

Page 24, line 23, after 'defined', insert --by the--.

5. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant:

Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Background Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g).

In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 is allowable over the cited art of record for at least the reason that the cited art of record fails to teach or reasonably suggest a light reflector formed of a biaxially-stretched film, as generally set forth in Claim 1, and wherein the color difference ΔE_H , after irradiated with a metal halide lamp spaced from the light reflector by 10 cm under an environmental condition of 83°C and a relative humidity of 50% and at an intensity of radiation of 90 mW/cm² for 10 hours, is at most 10. Claims 2-22 are dependent on Claim 1, and hence are allowable for at least the same reasons that Claim 1 is allowable.

Ishii et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5710856), of record, discloses a conventional light reflector formed of a biaxially-stretched film which contains a thermoplastic resin and a filler (See Abstract) and has a reflectance of 95% at 550 nm, an areal draw ratio of 1.5-20

(See Abstract), and UV tested under the following conditions: 80 deg. C, 351 nm light at 400 MJ/m².

Koyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6533440), of record, discloses a conventional light reflector formed of a biaxially-stretched film which contains a thermoplastic resin and a filler (See Abstract; Figure 1) and has an opacity of at least 95%, and an areal draw ratio of about 45 (See Table 1 for a comparison of test samples with comparative samples).

Ito et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5422175) discloses a conventional light film formed of a biaxially-stretched film which contains a thermoplastic resin and a filler (See Abstract; Figure 1) and having various properties and characteristics, including a whiteness of at least 90% (See Table 6) and an areal draw ratio of approximately 5.6-25 (See col. 10, lines 3-41).

Keller et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5176954) discloses a conventional light film formed of a biaxially-stretched film which contains a thermoplastic resin and a filler (See Abstract) and having various properties and characteristics, including an opacity of at least 90% (See Table 2) and an areal draw ratio of approximately 16-80 (See col. 13-42).

Nagata et al. (JP 63-161029A) discloses a conventional light reflector formed of a biaxially-stretched film which contains a thermoplastic resin and a filler (See Abstract) and has a high reflectivity (values not apparently specified), a whiteness of greater than 45, and an areal draw ratio of 9-15 (See Abstract).

Araki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5714223) discloses a conventional retroreflective for use on traffic signs and guide posts (See Abstract; Figures 1-2; col. 1, lines 15-18). In particular, Araki et al. discloses a means for testing the weatherability and, in particular,

color difference of the retroreflective sheet by using a color difference meter in conjunction with a D65 light source (a conventional daylight source with a 6500 K color temperature) (See col. 15, lines 24-50).

It would not have been apparent or obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, based on the above teachings, either alone or in combination, to suggest the claimed light reflector formed of a biaxially-stretched film, as generally set forth in Claim 1, and wherein the color difference ΔE_H , after irradiated with a metal halide lamp spaced from the light reflector by 10 cm under an environmental condition of 83°C and a relative humidity of 50% and at an intensity of radiation of 90 mW/cm² for 10 hours, is at most 10.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arnel C. Lavarias whose telephone number is 571-272-2315. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 AM - 5 PM EST.

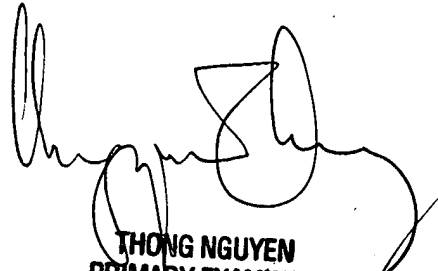
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew Dunn can be reached on 571-272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Arnel C. Lavarias
1/5/05



THONG NGUYEN
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